Jeffry (Shaye) Mallow for the Collective

Why We’re Called Chutzpah

“Chutzpah: impudence, effrontery, presumption, insolence” (Megiddo Modern Hebrew-English Dictionary).

“Chutzpah: impertinence, impudence, nerve” (Weinreich Modern Yiddish-English Dictionary).

People have asked us why we chose the name Chutzpah. Here are the most important reasons:

1. Because we believe that we and our paper display all of the endearing qualities indicated above.
2. Because in our experience, a little chutzpah is a good thing to have.
3. Because it makes you stop and think. Would you buy a Jewish Radical paper if it were called “Anives” (humility)?
4. Because chutzpah stands for CHEvra United To Promote All Humanization, which is one of our projects.
5. Because all the names we really wanted: Jewish United Fund, Jewish Sentinel, Jewish Federation, and our favorite, the Joint Distribution Committee, were already taken.
6. Because we threw a copy of Leo Rosten’s Joys of Yiddish out the window, and it landed on the “Ch” page.
7. Because saying “chutzpah” relieves clogged throats and congested sinuses. Say two “chutzpah”s every four hours and you’ll feel better instantly!

Chaim Romatski, a Bundist, slapped the Police Chief of Lomze for not doffing his hat for the Red Flag.